



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AAT Deficiency or Alpha-1) is one of the most common serious hereditary disorders in the world and can result in life-threatening liver disease in children and adults or in lung disease in adults; and

**WHEREAS,** Alpha-1 has been identified in virtually all populations. An estimated 100,000 Americans and an estimated 25 million people in the U.S. carry a single deficient gene that causes Alpha-1 and may pass the gene on to their children; and

**WHEREAS,** Alpha-1 is widely under-diagnosed and misdiagnosed. Less than ten percent of those predicted to have Alpha-1 have been diagnosed and it often takes an average of five doctors and seven years from the time symptoms first appear before proper diagnosis is made, which can be detected by a simple blood test; and

**WHEREAS,** it is important to increase awareness and detection of this serious hereditary and misdiagnosed disorder; and

**WHEREAS,** during the month of May, an awareness campaign will take place throughout the state to include educating the public as well as our medical community on Alpha-1 and detection and treatment for those affected by this condition; and

**WHEREAS,** a nationwide awareness campaign by the entire Alpha-1 Community will take place throughout the U.S. during the month of May.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 2004, as

### ALPHA-1 AWARENESS MONTH

in the state of Louisiana, and encourage all citizens to become better acquainted with this disease and its consequences for many individuals and families.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April  
A.D., 2004.*

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco*  
Governor of Louisiana



*Attest By  
The Governor*

*Joseph Keith*  
Secretary of State